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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 137, No. 02

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees will decide at the end of the month whether to return to in-person meetings.

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THE WAYNE EAGLE
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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
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William R. Wild and four members of the Westland City Council were officially inaugurated during ceremonies at city hall Jan. 3.

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Romulus school superintendent terminated by board

Following months of contentious meetings and public outcry, four members of the Romulus Board of Education voted to fire Superintendent of Schools Dr. Benjamin Edmondson on Dec. 29, 2021.

The vote came following a raucous meeting which began on Dec. 27 and continued Dec. 29. The four votes to terminate Edmondson's contract were cast by the same four board members named in a lawsuit filed on his behalf in U.S. District Court last month. That suit names board President Debi Pyles; Vice President Judy Kennard;, Secretary Susan Evitts and Trustee Nichole German along with the school district. Those four board members also voted to suspend Edmondson in September prompting weeks of public criticism of their actions during board meetings.

> *Pyles stated that Edmondson's termination was based on his failure to make sweeping financial changes...*

In the lawsuit, Edmondson cites a violation of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, claims racial discrimination in violation of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act and denial of due process. In defense of the board action in firing Edmondson, Pyles has posted a detailed list of complaints on the district website, citing Edmondson's failure to deal with the financial crisis in the district, including a timeline, since his hiring in August of 2020.

Pyles stated that Edmondson's termination was based on his failure to make sweeping financial changes in the district and that he had not presented a plan to correct the current financial disarray facing the district.

During the December meeting Edmondson was represented by attorney Nicholas Roumel who presented the board with 19 letters of support for Edmondson, including one from Romulus Mayor Robert McCraight and from the Romulus Education Association along with others from teachers and administrators. The most significant, however, appeared to be a letter from Donald Sovey principal of School & Municipal Advisory Services, PC. A report from that company was cited by Pyles as grounds to terminate Edmondson while Sovey's letter clarified the 100-page report as offering only "areas of consideration" and praised Edmondson's work and efforts in the district..

Board Treasurer Ursula

See **Schools,** page 2

Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to be celebrated next Monday

On Monday, the nation will mark the 27th anniversary of the National Day of Service, established as a federal holiday to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

Americans celebrated the first official Martin Luther King Day, which is the only federal holiday commemorating an African-American, in 1986. In 1994, Congress designated the holiday as a National Day of Service and designated the third Monday in January every year as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service - a "Day On, Not a Day Off."

Dr. King advocated nonviolent resistance to overcome injustice as a means of lifting racial oppression. He organized sit-ins, marches, and peaceful demonstrations that highlighted issues of inequality and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, the youngest person to ever receive the honor. Dr. King followed in the footsteps of his grandfather and father by entering the ministry and on April 4, 1968, at the age of 39, he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee as he stood on the balcony of a hotel. Dr. King had traveled to Memphis to lead a march in support of striking sanitation workers.

> *Dr. King advocated nonviolent resistance to overcome injustice as a means of lifting racial oppression.*

Following Dr. King's death, United States Democratic Representative John Conyers from Detroit and United States Republican Senator Edward Brooke introduced a bill in Congress recognizing Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday.

The bill first came to a vote in the United States House of Representatives in 1979 and fell five votes short of the number needed for approval. There were two main arguments mentioned by opponents, the first that a paid holiday for federal employees would be too expensive and the second that a holiday to honor the birth of a private citizen who had never held public office would be contrary to longstanding tradition.

The effort received more publicity in 1979 when Stevie Wonder released a song called "Happy Birthday". The song was meant to make a case for the holiday, calling out anyone who didn't support the idea. Additionally, six million signatures were collected for a petition sent to Congress to approve the holiday.

Despite opposition from North Carolina Republican Senators Jesse Helms and John Porter East, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill on Nov. 2,1983 which created the federal holiday honoring Dr. King. The bill was approved by a vote in the House of Representatives and was observed for the first time on Jan. 20, 1986. Initially, some states resisted observing the holiday and it was only officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in the year 2000.

This year, Dr. King's work will be remembered and celebrated next Monday, Jan. 17.

In the City of Romulus, the annual celebration will begin with the traditional Community March from Romulus Middle School at 37300 Wick Road to Romulus High School at 9650 Wayne Road. Shuttle service will be provided from the high school to the middle school from 7 until 7:45 a.m.

The march, a longstanding tradition in the community, will begin at 8 a.m. and be followed by a Continental Breakfast in the high school cafeteria sponsored by the Romulus Rotary Club. At 10 a.m., the Martin Luther King celebration ceremony will begin in the high school auditorium. Keynote speaker this year is Nelson A. Henry, the interim executive director of instruction for Romulus Community Schools.

For more information about the event, contact Committee Chairman Rev. Arthur Willis, at (313)701-2423 or City Clerk Ellen Craig-Bragg at (734)837-8898.

The City of Westland will also honor Dr. King with a Remembrance Walk beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday.

The walk will begin at Westland City Hall, weather permitting, and will symbolize all those individuals who marched with Dr. King more than 50 years ago to support the quest for racial equality in America.

Following the walk, a ceremony is planned for 10 a.m. at Westland City Hall. Wayne County Sheriff Raphael Washington will deliver the keynote address. Mayor William R. Wild will speak as will several other state and local elected officials.

Light refreshments will be provided. Westland City Hall is located at 36300 Warren Road. For more information, call (734) 467-3200.

Romulus - Sumpter

Farewell to friends

Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce Treasurer Marjie McAnally, photo above, far left, congratulates outgoing board of directors member Julie Allison (second from right) on her award for years of service as board member Arianna LeSure and board President Jeff Lowrey look on. Outgoing board member Harley Fisher, second from left in the above photo, receives his award presented by McAnally as Lawrey, LeSure and chamber member Grey Tyler look on. Dave Goodwin, at right in photo at right, is presented an award for his service by Lowrey and Executive Director Jazmine Danci. "All of these members have been dedicated to the chamber for many years and have been very generous with their time and resources. They will be truly missed on our board but will forever be friends of the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce," Danci said.

Meeting safety concerns Sumpter Township board

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees will decide at the end of the month whether to return to in-person meetings.

The decision, according to the trustees, will depend on the advice and action of Wayne County Health Department and state health officials in regard to the epidemic COVID omicron variant.

While Trustee Peggy Morgan pushed for a return to in-person meetings last month, suggesting that residents attending could "wear masks," others on the board were more cautious regarding the safety of residents and board members.

"The residents want regular meetings. If they come here and are not vaccinated, they can wear masks," Morgan said. "We can leave it up to them."

Trustee and Deputy Supervisor Tim Rush said the board should wait and see what the infection numbers were at the end of January to evaluate the health threat.

"The last thing we need is board members getting sick. We are three positions down in the township," he said. "I want to go back to live meetings, but we have to be safe. I think we should wait to get the numbers on the pandemic from Wayne County."

Township attorney Rob Young explained that the county health department state of emergency will expire at the end of January. He said the county officials could extend that date but currently the township does not have the information regarding "what is happening with the infection numbers."

> *I will be absent from live meetings until my wife's doctor gives the go ahead. A live meeting is not worth my wife's life.*

"How abut we follow the county guidelines. If they haven't changed and extended, we go back to live meetings," Morgan suggested.

Trustee Matt Oddy said that if the state of emergency is not extended, the township would be required to return to live meetings. "We would no longer be legally allowed to conduct virtual meetings unless the state extends the state of emergency," he said.

Supervisor Tim Bowman, however, was adamant in his assessment.

"My wife has breast cancer and her immune system is compromised," he said. "I will be absent from live meetings until my wife's doctor gives the go ahead. A live meeting is not worth my wife's life."

Young explained that he was not advocating for live meetings and that currently "half the township is out with high levels of absenteeism." He suggested the board members consider extending the virtual meetings contingent on the county extending the state of emergency.

Morgan suggested that perhaps some type of "hybrid" of both live and virtual meetings could be in place.

Young said that once the state of emergency has been lifted, a hybrid would no longer be legal or permitted.

Oddy said he would like to continue using Zoom for the meetings as long as possible due to the health threat and financial impact of COVID on township families.

"There are serious ramifications of exposure. Right now they are saying 6,000 a day plus. Zoom offers some safety. An outbreak could shut the township down, shut the police department down. This has serious consequences," he said.

Board members agreed to address the issue again at the end of this month.

Romulus man faces second-degree murder charge in crash

The driver in a crash that killed a 17-year-old Allen Park woman in September has been charged with second degree murder, operating while intoxicated causing death and reckless driving causing death.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy has charged Robert Merritt, 56, of Romulus in connection with the Sept. 22, 2021 high-speed vehicle crash that killed Mia Howard, 17, and injured a 15-year-old girl, also of Allen Park.

Romulus police officers were dispatched to the intersection of Middlebelt and Goddard roads at about 8:36 p.m. Sept. 22 in response to a reported vehicle crash, according to a prepared statement from Worthy's office. Upon their arrival, officers were advised that Howard was trapped inside her vehicle and when medics arrived on scene she was pronounced dead. The 15-year-old victim and Merritt, the driver of the other vehicle involved in the crash, were transported to a local hospital for treatment. Merritt turned himself in to authorities on Dec. 23, 2021.

It is alleged that the defendant was intoxicated, driving northbound in the southbound lane of Middlebelt Road at a high rate of speed when he struck the victim's vehicle head-on, killing Howard and non-fatally injuring the 15-year-old victim.

According to police reports, Merritt had a blood alcohol level of .14 at the time of the crash.

Due to the holiday, the defendant was arraigned on Dec. 24, 2021 in 36th District Court and given a $100,000 or 10 percent bond. If released on bond, he must wear a GPS and alcohol tether. The defendant is also not allowed to drive.

His probable cause conference is scheduled for March 9, in 34th District Court before Judge Brian Oakley.

Schools

FROM PAGE 1

Wester and Trustee Denisa Terrell argued against the motion to terminate Edmondson, written by Pyles, and reminded the board members that Edmondson had been working on the financial situation and had informed the board he was preparing a plan.

Roumel told the board that Edmondson could not be held responsible for the conditions, practices and financial problems in the district before he was hired.

A recall effort against Pyles, Kennard and Evitts led by resident Rita Hampton is ongoing based on the failure of the board members to provide timely minutes of meetings, a charge reiterated in Edmondson's lawsuit. Hampton, and many other residents, have been openly critical of what they describe as a private meeting of some board members in which an interim superintendent was hired at a higher rate of pay than Edmondson. Edmondson, in his lawsuit, claims that he was replaced by a "lesser qualified, non-minority employee."

In the statement on the district website, Pyles claims the board hired both Dixon Public Consulting and attorneys from Clark Hill to investigate the district finances. She claims Edmondson refused to cooperate with the personnel, hampering the investigations.

Edmondson in his lawsuit claims the four board members interfered with his ability to perform his job and that interference caused several district administrators and employees to resign.

Edmondson has asked for damages and claims in his suit that he has suffered "significant reputational harm that has negatively impacted his ability to find another job." He has also requested a jury trial.

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03 CHEV IMPALA
2G1WF52E639343008
08 GMC ACADIA SLT
1GKEV33728J157248
11 CADI CTS
1G6DC5EY2B0130372
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2A4GP54L87R302352
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Are you ready to help our community thrive, prosper and grow?

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To contact Kiwanis Club President Jack Schwartz, send an email to presidentplymouthnoonkiwanis@gmail.com or leave a message at (734) 765-0502.

Kiwanis

WESTLAND

Sworn to serve

Mayor, councilmembers take oaths of office during inauguration event

William R. Wild was officially inaugurated for his fourth term as mayor of the City of Westland Jan. 3.

Four members of the Westland City Council also took their oaths of office administered by 18th District Court Chief Judge Mark McConnell.

The ceremony took place in the Gene McKinney Ballroom located inside Westland City Hall.

"It is an honor to continue to serve as mayor of the All American city of Westland," Wild, said. "I look forward to the next four years working closely with the City Council to improve the lives of Westland residents."

> *We should all be active in the community some way or another.*

The inauguration included swearing in for three current member of city council and one newcomer. James R. Godbout, first taking office in 2000; James Hart who first assumed office in 2018; Peter Herzberg in 2016 and the newly-elected councilwoman Melissa Sampey, who officially took office Jan. 1, 2022.

City Clerk Richard LeBlanc acted as the master of ceremonies with saxophonist Steven Thomas playing America the Beautiful. The Rev. Dr. John E. Duckworth of Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church provided the invocation and Wild offered closing statements for the inaugural celebration.

Wild will serve a four-year term along with James Hart, Godbout and Herzberg while Sampey will serve a two-year term.

"To the residents of the City of Westland, thank you for your continued support. Twenty-one years so far has been a pretty good run and I will continue to serve you and serve the best interest of all residents of the City of Westland," said Godbout.

"We should all be active in the community some way or another. Sometimes that's on city council; sometimes it's on boards and commission; sometimes it's your local civic groups. But I've always encouraged everybody to be active in any way they can and I've always encouraged my children to be active. If you guys hang around any city events, you'll always see some of my kids running around because they are just as bought into this and just as dedicated as I am," said Hart.

"Over the last six years since being on council, I've been able to learn so many things and really being in public service has been the most rewarding thing I've ever done and I enjoy it. I'm honored to do it and I'm looking forward to the next four years," said Herzberg.

"I'm standing here as a brand-new councilwoman and many people said 'she can't and she won't do it.' But it only takes one person to believe in you and I was very lucky I had so many people in my corner who believed in me and supported me," commented Sampey.

Following the inauguration, the officials attended the first meeting of 2022 and voted to retain Hart as council president. Councilman Michael Londeau was chosen as council president pro-tem. The officials also opted to reappoint James Fausone of Fausone, Bohn LLP as the city attorney. He has served in that capacity since 2009.

Westland opens warming centers during extreme cold

Warming centers are available throughout Westland in response to the extreme cold temperatures in the area.

Residents will find warming centers at Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Westland Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway will be open to residents to stay warm from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

A warming center will also be available at the Westland Friendship Senior Center, 1119 Newburgh Road from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and at the Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center, 312150 Dorsey, from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Monday; from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Tuesday and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday.

After hours, the Westland Police Department lobby, 36701 Ford Road and Ralph Savini Fire Station (station 1), 35701 Central City Parkway, are available to residents seeking relief from the cold weather.

> *Residents can report findings of animals left outside without proper shelter to animal control at (734)738-3852.*

Those who may see someone out in the cold are urged to contact 911 or the non-emergency police line at (734)722-9600. Emergency personnel will work to ensure they are taken to a safe place to stay warm.

Residents are also asked to keep four-legged friends in mind during this extreme cold weather. Animals cannot handle being left outside in temperatures below freezing for more than a few minutes without being at extreme risk for hypothermia, frostbite and death.

Residents can report findings of animals left outside without proper shelter to animal control at (734)738-3852 or the non-emergency police line at (734)722-9600 for after hour reporting.

For more information, contact the mayor's office at (734) 467-3200.

Holiday home winners revealed

Winners of the 2021 All American Holiday Decorating Contest were announced at the first official meeting of the Westland City Council Jan. 3.

Mayor William Wild awarded top honors for Best Traditional Display to Raymond Roark, "even though his wife did all the setting up." Matt Sutela's home won for Most Creative Display and the Over the Top Display honors went to Randy and Kim Krause.

City officials thanked all those who entered and wished them the best of luck for next year.

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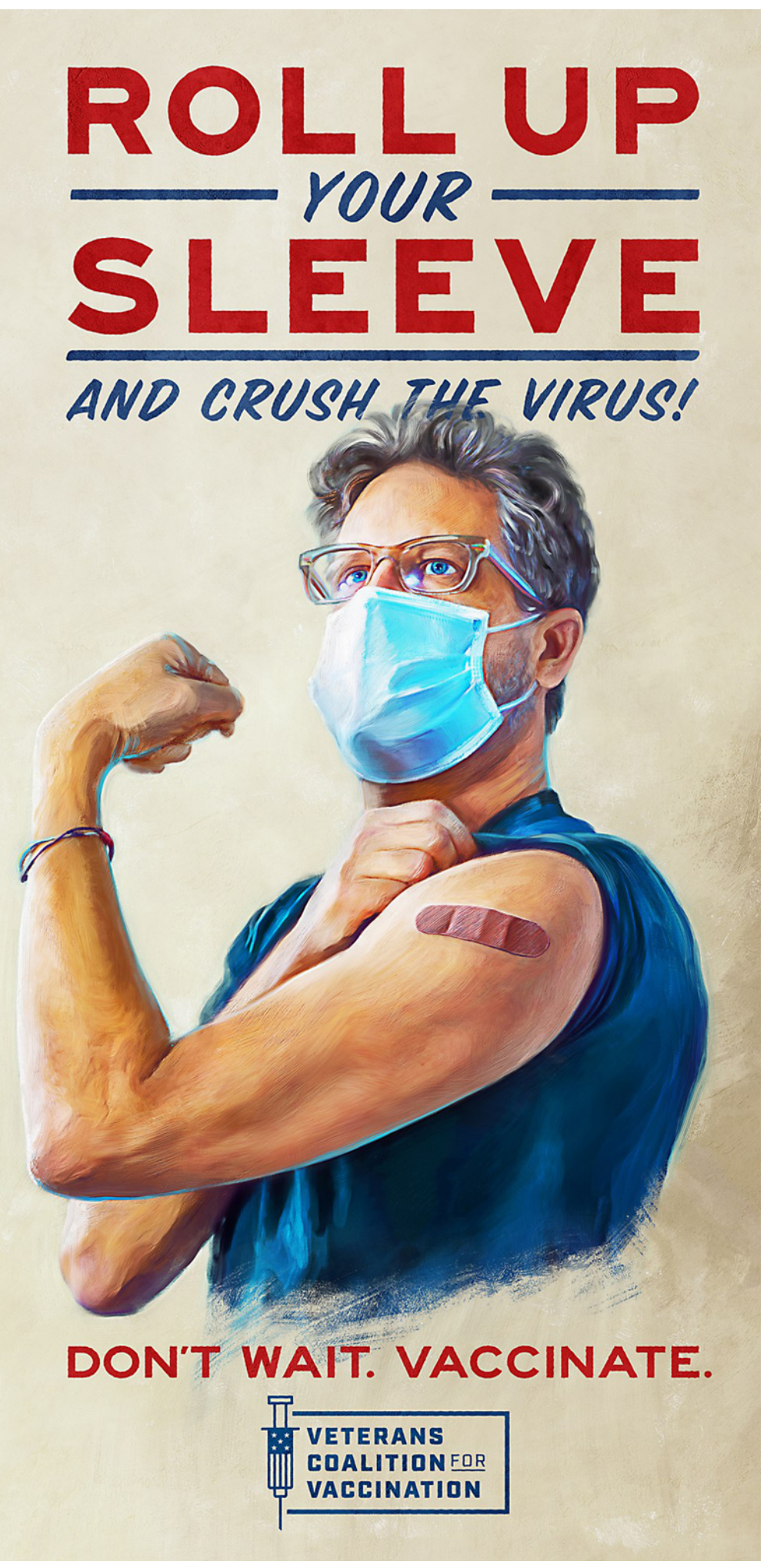


Inkster - Wayne

Mother arrested in knife attack on toddlers

An Inkster woman with a history of mental instability has been charged in the physical abuse and attempted murder of her 1- and 3-year-old children on New Year's Day.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy has charged Sara Vae Boles, 36, with two counts of assault with intent to murder, two counts of first-degree child abuse, and one count of resisting and obstructing police officers. The charges are in connection with the discovery of the two injured children in a home on the 29520 block of Grandview Street by police officers called to the scene to check on the welfare of the family at about 9 a.m. Jan. 1.

When officers arrived at the home, according to police reports, there was no response to their repeated knocks. As the officers walked around the home, they heard a child crying in distress and forced their way into the home through the front door. The officers discovered the defendant in the bathroom kneeling over the 1-year-old boy who was unconscious and not breathing with obvious wounds to his neck. They immediately administered CPR to the child and resuscitated him while the 3-year-old girl continued to cry in distress also suffering from wounds to her neck. Officers reported a bloody knife visible in the bathtub.

> *Prosecutors allege that Boles used the knife seen in the tub to cut the throats of both children.*

The woman struggled with officers as they attempted to aid the children and officers subsequently arrested her at the scene. Both children were immediately transported to a nearby hospital for treatment. The girl has been treated and released and is expected to make a full recovery, officials said, while the boy was transported to Children's Hospital in Detroit and reported in critical condition last week.

Prosecutors allege that Boles used the knife seen in the tub to cut the throats of both children.

Boles was arraigned in 22nd District Court and given a $100,000 bond. She remains in police custody, officials said.

Inkster Assistant Police Chief Bill Ratliff confirmed that police have a history with the defendant and that police have notified Children's Protective Services at least twice about the dangerous situation in the home. He said Boles is bipolar, schizophrenic and manic-depressant. Boles family members, Ratliff said, have been pleading with Children's Protective Services to take action since 2018.

"It just doesn't make sense to me why this happened," Ratliff said. "It could have been prevented." He said the failure of children's services to protect the children was frustrating for everyone in law enforcement. He confirmed that police have responded to the Grandview home 15 times and in 2018 temporarily removed the then 6-month-old girl from the dangerous scene. Police have also reportedly responded to other situations at the home including an incident when Boles was in the street threatening others with a saw and a call when she allegedly sliced her own head with razors and poured boiling water on her face.

Confidentiality laws prevent Children's Protective Services from commenting, according to an agency spokesman.

Suspect in double homicide remains at large

Wayne Police are actively seeking the boyfriend of a woman killed in a double homicide last week.

According to police reports, sisters Dominique Parchmon, 30 and Shyanna Hall, 18 were killed by multiple gunshot wounds reported just after 9 p.m. last Wednesday, Jan. 5. The shooting took place at the Lara Apartments on Niagara Street near Michigan Avenue and Merriman Road where Wayne police were dispatched following a report of gunshots fired.

> *A reward for information that leads directly to Greer's apprehension is being officer by the US Marshals Service.*

Parchmon was pronounced dead at the scene Hall succumbed to her injuries after being transported to a local hospital, according to police reports.

Police have identified 32-year-old Christopher Greer, the boyfriend of Parchmon, as a suspect in the shootings. According to police reports, an argument in the apartment escalated into gunfire. Greer reportedly fled the scene in a black Dodge Charger owned by Parchmon. The vehicle was discovered abandoned near Michigan Avenue and Hewitt Road in Ypsilanti.

Greer is reportedly armed with a 9mm handgun.

Greer is described as 5-feet, 9-inches tall and weighing 180 pounds. He was last seen wearing a dark, heavy winter coat, hat and jeans, police said. He is being sought by detectives from the Wayne Police Department, Michigan State Police Special Investigations Unit and the US Marshals Service Detroit Fugitive Apprehension Team.

The shooting took place at the Lara Apartments on Niagara Street near Michigan Avenue in Wayne.

Christopher Greer

A reward for information that leads directly to Greer's apprehension is being officer by the US Marshals Service.

Anyone with information regarding Greer's location is asked to call the Wayne Detective Bureau at (734) 721-1598 or email Det. Sgt. Finley Carter at fcarter@cityofwayne.com.

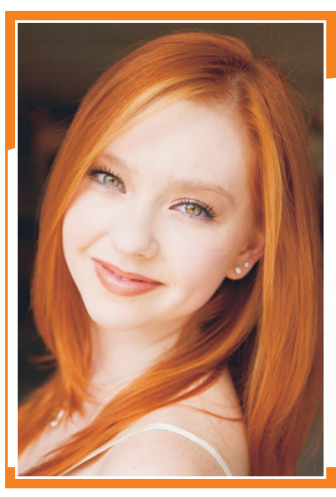
Inkster Legends of Basketball founder, director thanks 2021 holiday donors

Legends of Inkster Basketball founder Freddie Smiley recently sent a message of thanks to all who contributed and supported the program this year.

He noted that despite the struggles this year in light of the COVID-19 restrictions and health threats, the group has managed to continue to help local families during the holidays for 23 years.

Smiley said the program had seen "great success" due to the contributions and help from the foster grandparents and the "generous donors."

"You are each a blessing," he said in his message. "Thank you for your help."



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NORTHVILLE

Grateful resident donates new car to township police

Crime may not pay, but once in awhile, law enforcement does get rewarded.

In Northville Township, that reward came in the form of a new Chevrolet Blazer donated by Tom Close who won the vehicle at a charity golf tournament last year when he sank a nearly impossible hole in one.

"This never happens. Nobody ever wins the car," Close told reporters. He said he talked with his wife and they agreed to donate it to the Northville Township Police Department in a gesture of appreciation for the way officers handled an event last August.

Close explained that while on his way home from, what else, playing golf last summer, his wife called telling him that she, their daughter and their young granddaughter had been the victims of an armed robbery in the CVS parking lot in downtown Northville. She told him that the gunman snuck up on them in the lot, aimed the gun at them individually, and demanded their jewelry and wallets. After grabbing the jewelry and wallets, the man ran off, she said.

While the crime took place in the City of Northville where officers immediately responded to the scene, Northville Township Police were also notified as the robber had the family's address from the identification in the stolen wallets. Close said officers from Northville Township were at their home when they arrived from the crime scene and assured them that township officers would be patrolling the area heavily in an effort to protect them.

> "You're out there to help the community. You're out the to do good things."

Close said the officers' handling and attitude really helped the family, especially when officers returned on Friday and again on Saturday and even after change of duty on Sunday. He said the attention and concern was a great help to the entire family during a stressful time. Help that deserved a repayment, the family decided.

While Close said he would give both the township and the city officers a new vehicle if he could, he chose the township because of the officers' personal attention and compassion. He said they helped his family through the trauma with their continued attention and concern.

Close, president of Advanced Technologies Consultants, Inc., said the family is in a position not to need another vehicle, so they opted to donate the new car.

Northville Township Police Chief Scott Hilden said the vehicle has already joined the police fleet and will be used for a variety of tasks. He said he didn't know how many people donate new cars to police departments around the country, but that he didn't think there were "a whole lot."

Hilden said the car and the positive comments about the service the officers provided means a great deal to all the officers and helps morale in the department. He said the positive comments reinforce the motives officers have for going into police work.

"You're out there to help the community. You're out the to do good things," he said.

Township survey seeks public input into Legacy Park use

Members of the Legacy Park Development sub-committee in Northville Township are seeking public input into amenities at the site.

The 332-acre park, formerly known as the Seven Mile Property, was the former site of the state psychiatric hospital. Northville Township recently secured funding to proceed with the demolition of most of the remaining 11 hospital buildings on site.

The demolition work is scheduled to begin next spring with completion anticipated later in the year, officials said, and will allow the township to safely open the site to residents. One of the first steps in opening the site to the public will be to implement hiking, walking and biking trails.

Anyone with an interest in the development of the trails system within Legacy Park, is invited to share ideas through an online survey, available through Jan. 16. This survey springboards off discussions from the Seven Mile Road Park Master Plan adopted in 2012, which specified trails as an integral part of the park plans. The Master Plan is a road map for a 30-50 year process of phased development, and surveys like this will be used to update the plan, officials said.

The survey can be accessed at: www.twp.northville.mi.us/ legacypark.

For more information, contact Northville Parks and Recreation Director Mark Gasche at (248) 449-9949 or mgasche@twp.northville.mi.us.

2022 Romulus MLK Day Celebration

Monday, January 17, 2022

The City of Romulus, The Ministerial Alliance and Romulus Community Schools Invite the Community to Celebrate!

Please join us at 8:00 a.m. for the Community March from Romulus Middle School (37300 Wick Road) to Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road). Shuttle service will be provided from RHS to the Middle School from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

7:00 - 7:45 a.m - Shuttle bus from RHS to Romulus Middle School

7:30 a.m. - Meet at Romulus Middle School

8:00 a.m. - March Begins (From Romulus Middle School to Romulus High School - Route: Ozga Road to McBride Street to Tobine Road)

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. - Continental Breakfast in the Romulus High School Cafeteria (Sponsored by the Romulus Rotary Club)

10:00 a.m. - MLK Celebration Ceremony in the Romulus High School Auditorium.

Keynote Speaker: Nelson A. Henry, Interim Executive Director of Instruction for Romulus Community Schools

For Additional Information, Contact Rev. Arthur Willis, Committee Chairman (313) 701-2423 or Ellen Craig-Bragg (734) 837-8898

Canton - Plymouth

Student radio station to host annual record sale

The past may help the future of the student radio station operated by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

The 13th Annual 88.1 Record Show will take place from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 in the Salem High School cafeteria. All proceeds from the sale of thousands of vinyl records available, along with CDs, import-only releases, t-shirts, posters and other collectibles will benefit the nationally-recognized and award-winning student radio station.

The show will also feature special giveaways and door prizes in addition to a wide variety of vendors.

More than 400 people attended the show in 2020 and organizers hope to build on that success this year, based on the resurgence of interest in vinyl records.

"We've worked hard to create a record show that's perfect for the longtime collector and for those that are new to vinyl. It's amazing to see so many music fans, from all generations, together in one place," said Emma Johnston, program director for 88.1 The Park.

Admission to the 88.1 The Park record show, during normal show hours, is $3. Collectors looking to get an early start to their shopping can gain early admission between 9 and 10 a.m. for $5. Students at Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools will receive free admission with a student identification.

All of the proceeds will benefit 88.1 The Park, and will help the station to continue serving the community with unique programming and broadcast training for students. The record show is one of the main fundraisers for the station each year.

Interested dealers can contact 88.1 The Park Station Manager Bill Keith, at (734) 416-7732 or by email at bill.keith@pccsk12.com. Eight-foot tables can be reserved for $30 each.

Salem High School is located at 46181 Joy Road in Canton at the corner of Joy and Canton Center Road. The Salem High School Cafeteria is located on the first floor, just inside the main entrance to the school.

88.1 The Park is committed to investing in the lives of students and serving the Plymouth-Canton Community and is owned and operated by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. More information is available at www.881ThePark.com.

Plymouth Library returns to curbside service for patrons

Due to the high local COVID positivity numbers and COVID-related staffing challenges, Plymouth District Library has returned to curbside-only service. Curbside pickup on the south side of the building will be on-demand with no appointment necessary. Patrons are asked to wait until they receive notice that their holds are ready, however, before coming to the library.

Curbside pickup will be available during regular library hours of 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday and 1until 5 p.m. on Sunday. Also available during these hours will be remote printing with printouts available for curbside pickup and reference assistance by phone. As always, digital collections and resources will be available 24/7 at plymouthlibrary.org.

Library officials said they understand "that this temporary closure is an inconvenience. However, it is our utmost priority to keep our staff and patrons safe and we have deemed this step necessary for a time until the high test positivity numbers decrease and until we can reliably and safely staff the library."

Patrons are encouraged to utilize the library on-line advisory services in place of in-person browsing. Adults can visit the Books, Movies and More page to request a suggestion, use the Novelist tool, see what's new through Wowbrary or read write-ups in the Book Page. Parents can ask librarians to customize a book bundle for their child on the Youth page and teens can request a custom Book Match or read peer reviews in the Teen newsletter.

Canton Township woman wins 'Lucky for Life' lottery prize

Canton Township resident Brenda Walker, 77, will soon be driving a brand-new car and some special family dates helped fund her new ride.

For years, Walker said, she has been playing a special set of numbers in the Michigan Lottery and finally those birthdays and special dates paid off. Her numbers matched the five white balls drawn in the Lucky For Life game on Nov. 27. Her persistence rewarded Walker with $25,000 a year for life or the cash option of $390,000, which she chose.

Walker purchased her winning ticket at the Canton Mini Mart on Cherry Hill Road, she said, and when the winning numbers were announced, was stunned to realize her numbers, 02-06-07-11-19, were the winning combination.

"I've played a special set of numbers made up of birth dates and other special dates for years," said Walker. "Every night after the drawing I call the winning numbers hotline and check my ticket. When the numbers were read off, I recognized them right away and had to press the repeat option a few times to make sure I was hearing right.

"When it finally sank in, I jumped up in excitement and was filled with a warm, happy, and excited feeling. I am so thankful for this prize," said Walker.

Walker recently visited lottery headquarters to claim her big prize. She chose to receive her winnings as a one-time, lump sum payment rather than annuity payments of $25,000 for 20 years or life, whichever is greater.

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